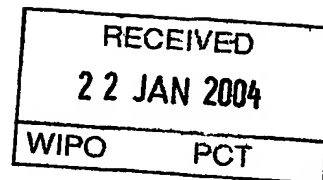


Rec'd PCT/PA 12 MAY 2005

101534647



PA 1106952



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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/425,327

FILING DATE: November 12, 2002

IB 03/5312

**PRIORITY
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Atty. Dkt. No. 065691-0298

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Franck Chaubron et al.

Title: ONE STEP REAL-TIME RT PCR KITS FOR THE UNIVERSAL
DETECTION OF ORGANISMS IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

Appl. No.: Unknown

Filing Date: November 12, 2002

Examiner: Unknown

Art Unit: Unknown

PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner for Patents
Box PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(c) is the provisional patent
application of:

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Enclosed are:

- [X] Specification, Claim(s), and Abstract (20 pages).
- [X] Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76).

Atty. Dkt. No. 065691-0298

	Rate	Fee Totals
Basic Fee	\$160.00	\$160.00
[] Small Entity Fees Apply (subtract 1/2 of above)	=	\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE:	=	\$160.00

- [X] A check in the amount of \$160.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- [] The required filing fees are not enclosed but will be submitted in response to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application.
- [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Application Data Sheet**Application Information**

Application Type::	Provisional
Subject Matter::	Utility
Suggested classification::	
Suggested Group Art Unit::	
CD-ROM or CD-R?::	
Number of CD-disks::	
Number of copies of CDs::	
Sequence submission?::	
Computer Readable Form (CRF)?::	
Number of copies of CRF::	
Title::	ONE STEP REAL-TIME RT PCR KITS FOR THE UNIVERSAL DETECTION OF ORGANISMS IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS
Attorney Docket Number::	065691-0298
Request for Early Publication?::	No
Request for Non-Publication?::	No
Suggested Drawing Figure::	
Total Drawing Sheets::	
Small Entity?::	No
Petition included?::	No
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.?::	No

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Domestic Priority Information

Application::	Continuity Type::	Parent Application::	Parent Filing Date::

Foreign Priority Information

Country::	Application number::	Filing Date::	Priority Claimed::

Assignee Information

Assignee name:: GENOLIFE

**One step real-time RT PCR kits for the universal detection of organisms in
industrial products**

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 The invention pertains to the field of methods and reagents for detecting bacteria and fungus-yeast found in pharmaceutical, cosmetic and non clinical samples.

More specifically, the present invention relates to a sample preparation, primer sets, probe sets and methods for one step real-time RT PCR kits for the universal detection of
10 alive bacteria and fungus-yeast in sterile or non sterile industrial product in less than 24 hours.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 The use of specific polynucleotide sequences or Peptide Nucleic Acid as primers and/or probes for the recognition of contaminant and infectious agents is becoming a valuable alternative to problematic growth requirements assays, visible (colony) growth features, microscopic morphology, staining reactions, and biochemical characteristics. Most of the time these technologies are too slow for a real used in industrial controls.

20 For example, PCT publication W084/02721, published Jul. 19, 1984 describes the use of nucleic acid probes complementary to targeted nucleic acid sequences composed of ribosomal RNA, transfer RNA, or other RNA in hybridization procedures to detect the target nucleic acid sequence. While the assay may provide greater sensitivity and
25 specificity than known DNA hybridization assays, hybridization procedures which require the use of a complementary probe are generally dependent upon the cultivation of a test organism and are, therefore, unsuitable for rapid analysis.

These probes are useful in hybridizing to RNA amplified by the Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT PCR). RT-PCR is a powerful ribonucleic acid amplification technique that can be used for the detection of small numbers of ribonucleotide acid targets from bacteria and/or from fungus-yeast whose in vitro cultivation is difficult or lengthy. RT PCR requires the presence of living specimens for detection. In its simplest form, RT PCR is an in vitro method for the enzymatic synthesis of specific cDNA sequences. Using one oligonucleotide primers that hybridize to RNA strand and flank the region of interest in the target cDNA, several cDNA are synthesised by Reverse Transcriptase. A repetitive series of cycles involving template denaturation, primer annealing, and extension of annealed primers by DNA polymerase results in the exponential accumulation of a specific fragment whose termini are defined by the 5' ends of the primers. PCR produce a selective enrichment of a specific DNA sequence by a factor of 10^{sup.12}. The PCR method is described in Saiki et al, 1985, Science 230:1350 and is the subject of U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,683,195, 4,683,202 and 4,800,159 (these references are incorporated herein by reference). This method has been used to detect the presence of the aberrant sequence in the beta-globin gene which is related to sickle cell anemia (Saiki et al., 1985, supra) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) RNA (Byrne et al., 1988, Nuc. Acids Res. 16:4165).

In order to successfully treat a contamination caused by a bacteria or fungus-yeast in a sterile or non sterile product from industry, a rapid and accurate detection is required. Bacterial and fungus-yeast detection have traditionally been accomplished by pure culture isolation, followed by identification procedures that make use of knowledge of specimen source, growth requirements, visible (colony) growth features, microscopic morphology, staining reactions, and biochemical characteristics.

It is clear that a rapid diagnostic method, less than 24 hours, for detecting bacteria and fungus-yeast in industrial samples with the same sensitivity as culture would be a significant improvement over currently used methods.

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention pertains to methods and reagents for the rapid detection of bacteria and fungus-yeast in sterile and non sterile product in less than 24 hours.

10 In a preferred embodiment, a target region from a one-step Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction of RNA and the resultant amplified DNA is treated with probes which can hybridize to the amplified DNA of bacteria or fungus-yeast but not other organisms (mammalian, plant, insects...) or virus.

15 The Tth DNA polymerase is a thermostable enzyme with RNA-dependent Reverse Transcriptase activity and with DNA-dependent Polymerase activity, allowing the combination of RT and PCR in a single-tube reaction resulting in a faster analysis of presence of RNA from bacteria, fungus-yeast.

20 Using one-step Real-time Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction, the invention enable the user to perform a rapid RT-PCR and simultaneously detect and quantify the presence of RNA from bacteria and/or fungus-yeast by monitoring fluorescence during real time polymerase chain reaction amplification with any risk of false positive due to opening tube between RT and PCR and from possible PCR product environmental contamination due to precedent amplification reactions in the laboratory.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

25

The methods of the present invention thus enable determination of the presence of bacteria and/or fungus-yeast more rapidly than technologies with prior art detection methods.

Using one-step Real-time Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction, the invention enable the user to perform a rapid RT-PCR and simultaneously analyse and quantify the presence of RNA from bacteria and/or fungus-yeast by monitoring fluorescence during real time polymerase chain reaction amplification with any risk of false positive due to opening tube between RT and PCR and from possible PCR product environmental contamination due to precedent amplification reactions.

5 The basic RT PCR process is carried out as follows.

10 A sample is provided which needs to be tested or which is suspected of contain a particular ribonucleic acid sequence of interest, the "target sequence." The ribonucleic acid contained in the sample may be first reverse transcribed into cDNA (using Tth DNA polymerase as purified enzyme and a oligonucleotide or PNA), and then denatured, using physical means, which are known to those of skill in the art. A preferred physical means for strand separation involves heating the nucleic acid until it is completely

15 (>99%) denatured. Methods for the amplification of RNA targets using a thermostable DNA polymerase are described in PCT/US90/07641, filed Dec. 21, 1990, and incorporated herein by reference.

20 The denatured DNA strands are then incubated in the same tube with the selected oligonucleotide primers under hybridization conditions, conditions which enable the binding of the primers to the single DNA strands. As known in the art, the primers are selected so that their relative positions along a duplex sequence are such that an extension product synthesized from one primer, when it is separated from its complement, serves as a template for the extension of the other primer to yield a

25 replicate chain of defined length.

The primer must be sufficiently long to prime the synthesis of extension products in the presence of the agent for polymerization. The exact length of the primers will depend on many factors, including temperature, source of the primer and use of the method.

5 Preferred oligonucleotide primers for use in the present invention are selected from the group consisting of

Seq ID 1	AGAGTTTGATCATGGCTCAGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 2	TTACCCACCTACTAGCTAAT	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 3	TGGAGCATGTGGTTTAATTCGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 4	TGCGGGACTTAACCCAACA	[primer reverse]
10 Seq ID 5	AACTGGAGGAAGGTGGGGAT	[primer forward]
Seq ID 6	AGGAGGTGATCCAACCGCA	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 7	TCGTAGTCTTAACCATAAACT	[primer forward]
Seq ID 8	CGTTCGTTATCGCAATTAAG	[primer reverse]

15 Template-dependent extension of the oligonucleotide primer(s) is then catalyzed by the polymerizing agent (in the presence of adequate amounts of the four deoxyribonucleoside triphosphates (dATP, dGTP, dCTP, and dTTP) or analogs, in a reaction medium which is comprised of the appropriate salts, metal cations, and pH buffering system.

20

The products of the synthesis are duplex molecules consisting of the template strands and the primer extension strands, which include the target sequence. These products, in turn, serve as templates for another round of replication. In the second round of replication, the primer extension strand of the first cycle is annealed with its
25 complementary primer; synthesis yields a "short" product which is bounded on both the 5'- and the 3'-ends by primer sequences or their complements. Repeated cycles of denaturation, primer annealing, and extension result in the exponential accumulation of

the target region defined by the primers. Suffioient cycles are run to achieve the desired amount of polynucleotide containing the target region of nucleic acid. The desired amount may vary, and is determined by the function which the product polynucleotide is to serve.

5

The PCR method is performed in a fashion where all of the reagents are added simultaneously, in one step.

In a preferred method, the RT PCR reaction is carried out as an automated process which utilizes a thermostable enzyme like Tth from Roche Diagnostics.

10

The types of machines used are commercially available from Roche Diagnostics (LighCycler), Cepheid (Smart Cycler, GeneXpert), BioRad (Icycler)... and most suitable equipment developed for real time PCR assays and commercial use:

15

Those skilled in the art will also be aware of the problems of contamination of a PCR by the nucleic acid from bacteria previously present in water used for buffer and resulting in non specific amplification. Methods to reduce these problems are provided by using adequate filtration systems to avoid DNA strand fragments with a size higher than 100 bp. All reagents used in the RT PCR reaction have to be processed before using.

20

During amplification by PCR, the target polynucleotides may be detected directly by hybridization with a probe polynucleotide which forms a stable hybrid with the target sequence under high stringency to low stringency hybridization and washing conditions.

25

Probes are typically labeled with non-radioactive labeling systems, such as fluoresceins and derivated systems.

Therefore, in one embodiment, the invention relates to a method and kit for determining the presence of bacteria or fungus-yeast ribonucleic acid (RNA) in a sample suspected of containing said bacteria and/or fungus, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a selected target region, said method comprising:

- 5 (a) extract bacteria or fungus-yeast ribonucleic acid (RNA) from the sample up to 1000 ml by centrifiltration on membranes and /or DEAE resin following by incubation with DNase.
- 10 (b) incubating the bacteria or fungus-yeast ribonucleic acid (RNA) with Tth DNA polymerase and polynucleotide primers with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

Seq ID 2	TTACCCACCTACTAGCTAAT	[primer reverse]
15. Seq ID 4	TGCGGGACTTAACCAACA	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 6	AGGAGGTGATCCAACCGCA	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 8	CGTTCGTTATCGCAATTAAG	[primer reverse]

- 20 under conditions which allow hybridization of the polynucleotide to the ribonucleotide target region and Reverse Transcriptase activity of the Tth for cDNA synthesis; and

- (c) amplified the cDNAs formed to a detectable level by Polymerase Chain Reaction with Tth DNA polymerase and polynucleotide primers and probes with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

25 Seq ID 1	AGAGTTTGATCATGGCTCAGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 2	TTACCCACCTACTAGCTAAT	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 3	TGGAGCATGTGGTTTAATTCGA	[primer forward]

Seq ID 4	TGCGGGACTTAACCCAACA	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 5	AACTGGAGGAAGGTGGGGAT	[primer forward]
Seq ID 6	AGGAGGTGATCCAACCGCA	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 7	TCGTAGTCTTAACCATAAACT	[primer forward]
5 Seq ID 8	CGTTCGTTATCGCAATTAAG	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 9	GAGTGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAA	[probe forward]
Seq ID 10	TGCATGGCTGTCGTCAGCTCGTG	[probe forward]
Seq ID 11	CGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTGTACA	[probe forward]
10 Seq ID 12	ATAAGGATTGACAGATTGAGAGCTCIT	[probe forward]

The cDNA target sequence can be synthesised by Reverse Transcriptase activity of the Tth polymerase is amplified by the DNA-dependent Polymerase activity of the Tth DNA polymerase in the same tube by means of one step real time RT-PCR.

- 15 More particularly, the composition for detecting bacteria comprises a polynucleotide primers and a probe consisting of the sequence

Seq ID 1	AGAGTTTGATCATGGCTCAGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 2	TTACCCACCTACTAGCTAAT	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 9	GAGTGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAA	[probe forward]

- 20 Alternatively, the composition for detecting bacteria comprises a polynucleotide primers and a probe consisting of the sequence

Seq ID 3	TGGAGCATGTGOTTTAATTCGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 4	TGCGGGACTTAACCCAACA	[primer reverse]
25 Seq ID 10	TGCATGGCTGTCGTCAGCTCGTG	[probe forward]

The invention may also be practiced with a composition for detecting bacteria which comprises a polynucleotide primers and a probe consisting of the sequence

Seq ID 5 AACTGGAGGAAGGTGGGGAT [primer forward]
Seq ID 6 AGGAGGTGATCCAACCGCA [primer reverse]
5 Seq ID 11 CCGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTGTACA [probe forward]

The invention also concerns the above mentioned method and kit wherein the composition for detecting fungus-yeast comprises a polynucleotide primers and a probe consisting of the sequence

10 Seq ID 7 TCGTAGTCTTAACCATAAACT [primer forward]
Seq ID 8 CGTTCGTTATCGCAATTAAG [primer reverse]
Seq ID 12 ATAAGGATTGACAGATTGAGAGCTCTT [probe forward]

15 The preferred combination of primers and probes used for detection all bacteria and/or fungus-yeast consists of the sequence :

Seq ID 1 + Seq ID 2 + Seq ID 9

or

Seq ID 3 + Seq ID 4 + Seq ID 10

or

20 Seq ID 5 + Seq ID 6 + Seq ID 11

or

Seq ID 7 + Seq ID 8 + Seq ID 12

or

Seq ID 1 + Seq ID 2+ Seq ID 9+ Seq ID 7 + Seq ID 8 + Seq ID 12

25 or

Seq ID 3 + Seq ID 4+ Seq ID 10+ Seq ID 7 + Seq ID 8 + Seq ID 12

or

Seq ID 5 + Seq ID 6 + Seq ID 11 + Seq ID 7 + Seq ID 8 + Seq ID 12

As mentioned above, the polynucleotide primers and probes may be natural nucleic acid
5 or Peptide Nucleic Acid (PNA) which can hybridize to nucleic acid (DNA and RNA).

The RNA may also be quantified and compared with quantified external standard RNA
from *Escherichia coli* and *Candida spp.*

10 By way of further specificity, the following probe nucleotide base pair data is provided.
Preferred oligonucleotide probes for use in the present invention are selected from the
group consisting of

Seq ID 9	GAGTGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAA	[probe forward]
Seq ID 10	TGCATGGCTGTCGTCAGCTCGTG	[probe forward]
15 Seq ID 11	CGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTGTACA	[probe forward]
Seq ID 12	ATAAGGATTGACAGATTGAGAGCTCTT	[probe forward]

Reverse probes are not usable because in a one-step RT-PCR the probe should not
hybridize the RNA sequence zone where the cDNA is synthesised by Reverse
20 Transcriptase.

The sequence of the preferred oligonucleotide primers and probes of the invention are
based on the rRNA gene. Oligonucleotide rRNA gene for the detection of nucleic acids
from various microorganisms have been described in the scientific literature. For
25 example, universal bacterial probes have been described by Wilson et al., 1990, J.
Clinical Microbiology 28:1942-1946, and Chem et al., 1989, FEMS Microbiology
Letters 57:19-24.

Examples of genus- and species-specific probes have been described by Barry et al., 1990, Biotechnology 8:233-236, Atlas and Bej, "PCR protocols: A guide to method and application," p. 399-406; and in Gen-probe international patent application W088/03957 (these references are incorporated herein by reference). The invention claimed in this application differs from these inventions in the range of target detected (all bacteria-fungus-yeast) and the application focus (not clinical).

The use of a panel of rRNA probes, including a universal bacterial probe, gram-positive and gram-negative probes and species or group specific probes provides clinically useful information, not a single universal bacterial probe; since different pathologies, drugs and antibiotic therapy is recommended for various bacterial - fungus-yeast infections. In these precedent patents, universal bacterial probes are using only for positive controls. Universal primers for bacterial- fungus-yeast are using for identification after cloning and sequencing of the amplified product or hybridization on a DNA chip. The used of rRNA targets for sterility controls for detection of alive bacteria and fungus-yeast in sterile or non sterile industrial product has not been described before this invention.

Preferred universal couple of primers for the one step RT PCR detection of bacteria and fungus-yeast comprise a probing nucleobase sequence selected from the group consisting of:

Seq ID 1	AGAGTTTGATCATGGCTCAGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 2	TTACCCACCTACTAGCTAAT	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 3	TGGAGCATGTGGTTTAATTCGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 4	TGCCGGACTTAACCCAACA	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 5	AACTGGAGGAAGGTGGGGAT	[primer forward]
Seq ID 6	AGGAGGTGATCCAACCGCA	[primer reverse]

Seq ID 7 TCGTAGTCTTAACCATAAACT [primer forward]
Seq ID 8 CGTTCGTTATCGCAATTAAG [primer reverse]

5 Other preferred universal probes for the detection of bacteria and fungus-yeast comprise a probing nucleobase sequence selected from the group consisting of

Seq ID 9 GAGTGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAA [probe forward]
Seq ID 10 TGCATGGGTGTCGTCAGCTCGTG [probe forward]
Seq ID 11 CGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTGTACA [probe forward]
10 Seq ID 12 ATAAGGATTGACAGATTGAGAGCTCTT [probe forward]

15 The probes and primer sets, methods and kits of this invention are particularly well suited for use in simplex or multiplex one step RT PCR assays wherein all the bacteria and/or fungus-yeast in a sample can be detected alive and quantitated. The total number of colony forming units (CFU) of bacteria and/or fungus-yeast can be directly determined.

The following examples are intended to be illustrative of the various methods and compounds of the invention.

20

EXAMPLE 1

A Preferred Method for Analysis of Samples by single filtration (filterable liquids).
Specificity of extraction from bacteria or fungus-yeast ribonucleotide acid from the
25 sample up to 1000 ml by centrifiltration following by incubation with DNase.

1 - The liquid sample (up to 1000 ml) is passed through a polycarbonate membrane (up to 0,45 μ m) or hydrophilic polyvinylidene difluoride membrane (up to 0,45 μ m) or hydrophilic polyethylene sulfone membrane (up to 0,45 μ m) or polycarbonate membrane (up to 0,45 μ m) or cellulose acetate membrane (up to 0,45 μ m) via centrifugation (swing rotor) up to 4000 rpm or a vacuum pump.

2 - The filter is transferred in a 50 mL sterile tube with up to 1 ml of lysis buffer and then incubated at 35°C \pm 2°C up to one hour.

3 - Centrifugation of the liquid (lysis buffer) for 5 min up to 4000 rpm.

4 - The lysate is processed for RNA purification with commercial kits. Our preferred RNA extraction kit is the the MagNaPure LC RNA isolation kit II on the workstation MagNaPure LCTM (Roche Diagnostics).

5 - The elution volume is up to 100 μ l. Incubation with DNase is processed during the purification.

5 - 2 μ l (up to 5 μ l) of pure RNA extract is used for the one step real time RT-PCR (LightCyclerTM) with Tth from Roche Diagnostics and the following program :

20

I : Reverse transcription	61°C / 20 min (20°C/sec)
II : Denaturation	95°C / 2 min (20°C/sec)
III : PCR (35 cycles)	95°C / 15 seconds (20°C/sec)
	60°C / 60 seconds (20°C/sec)

25 The emitted fluorescence is measured at the end of the 60 seconds.

IV : Cooling	40°C during 30 seconds (20°C/sec)
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The same RT-PCR program is used for all simplex and multiplex reactions.

EXAMPLE 2

- 5 A Preferred Method for Analysis of Samples by filtration and DEAE resin (non filterable liquids).
Specificity of extraction from bacteria or fungus-yeast ribonucleotide from the sample up to 1000 ml by centrifiltration and DEAE resin following by incubation with DNase.
- 10 1 - Add 1X final lysis buffer in the sample.
- 2 - Incubated for up to 1 hour at $35^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- 3 - Add 0,2 M final guanidine thiocyanate pH7.
- 15 4 - Incubated for up to 30 minutes at $50^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- 5 - Add the liquid on the pre-filter membrane (polypropylene $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) to retain particules with a size superior at $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. The liquid filtered is charged in nucleic acid.
- 20 6 - Add the liquid on a pre-washed DiEthylAminoEthyl cellulose (DEAE) membrane to retain all nucleic acid. Wash the membrane.
- 7- Add salt, up to 1000 μl to recovery nucleic acid in a sterile clean tube by
25 centrifugation or with a vacuum pump.
- 8 - The total nucleic acid is then processed for RNA purification with commercial kits.
Our preferred RNA extraction kit is on the workstation MagNaPure LCTM (Roche

Diagnostics). The elution volume is up to 100 μ l. Incubation with DNase is processed during the purification.

9 - 2 μ l (up to 5 μ l) of pure RNA extract is used for the one step real time RT-PCR (LightCyclerTM) with Tth from Roche Diagnostics and the following program :

I : Reverse transcription	61°C / 20 min (20°C/sec)
II : Denaturation	95°C / 2 min (20°C/sec)
III : PCR (35 cycles)	95°C / 15 seconds (20°C/sec)
	60°C / 60 seconds (20°C/sec)

The emitted fluorescence is measured at the end of the 60 seconds.

IV : Cooling	40°C during 30 seconds (20°C/sec)
--------------	-----------------------------------

The same RT- PCR program is used for all simplex and multiplex reactions.

Claims

5 1. A method and kit for determining the presence of bacteria or fungus-yeast ribonucleic acid (RNA) in a sample suspected of containing said bacteria and/or fungus, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a selected target region, said method comprising:

(a) extract bacteria or fungus-yeast ribonucleic acid (RNA) from the sample up to 1000
10 ml by centrifiltration on membranes and /or DEAE resin following by incubation with DNase.

(b) incubating the bacteria or fungus-yeast ribonucleic acid (RNA) with Tth DNA
polymerase and polynucleotide primers with a nucleotide sequence selected from the
15 group consisting of

Seq ID 2	TTACCCACCTACTAGCTAAT	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 4	TGCGGGACTTAACCCAACA	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 6	AGGAGGTGATCCAACCGCA	[primer reverse]
20 Seq ID 8	CGTTCGTTATCGCAATTAAG	[primer reverse]

under conditions which allow hybridization of the polynucleotide to the ribonucleotide target region and Reverse Transcriptase activity of the Tth for cDNA synthesis; and

25 (c) amplified the cDNAs formed to a detectable level by Polymerase Chain Reaction with Tth DNA polymerase and polynucleotide primers and probes with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

Seq ID 1	AGAGTTTGATCATGGCTCAGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 2	TTACCCCACCTACTAGCTAAT	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 3	TGGAGCATGTGGTTTAATTCGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 4	TGCGGGACTTAACCCAACA	[primer reverse]
5 Seq ID 5	AACTGGAGGAAGGTGGGGAT	[primer forward]
Seq ID 6	AGGAGGTGATCCAACCGCA	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 7	TCGTAGTCTTAACCATAAACT	[primer forward]
Seq ID 8	CGTTCGTTATCGCAATTAAG	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 9	GAGTGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAA	[probe forward]
10 Seq ID 10	TGCATGGCTGTCGTCAGCTCGTG	[probe forward]
Seq ID 11	CGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTGTACA	[probe forward]
Seq ID 12	ATAAGGATTGACAGATTGAGAGCTCTT	[probe forward]

15 2. The method and kit of claim 1, wherein the cDNA target sequence synthesised by Reverse Transcriptase activity of the Tth polymerase is amplified by the DNA-dependent Polymerase activity of the Tth DNA polymerase in the same tube by means of one step real time RT-PCR.

20 3. The method and kit of claim 1 and 2, wherein the composition for detecting bacteria comprising a polynucleotide primers and a probe consisting of the sequence

Seq ID 1	AGAGTTTGATCATGGCTCAGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 2	TTACCCCACCTACTAGCTAAT	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 9	GAGTGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAA	[probe forward]

4. The method and kit of claim 1 and 2, wherein the composition for detecting bacteria comprising a polynucleotide primers and a probe consisting of the sequence

Seq ID 3	TGGAGCATGTGGTTTAATTCGA	[primer forward]
Seq ID 4	TCCGGGACTTAACCCAACA	[primer reverse]
5. Seq ID 10	TGCATGGCTGTCGTCAGCTCGTG	[probe forward]

5. The method and kit of claim 1 and 2, wherein the composition for detecting bacteria comprising a polynucleotide primers and a probe consisting of the sequence

Seq ID 5	AACTGGAGGAAGGTGGGGAT	[primer forward]
10. Seq ID 6	AGGAGGTGATCCAACCGCA	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 11	CGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTGACA	[probe forward]

6. The method and kit of claim 1 and 2, wherein the composition for detecting fungus-yeast comprising a polynucleotide primers and a probe consisting of the sequence

15. Seq ID 7	TCGTAGTCTTAACCATAAACT	[primer forward]
Seq ID 8	CGTTCGTTATCGCAATTAAG	[primer reverse]
Seq ID 12	ATAAGGATTGACAGATTGAGAGCTCTT	[probe forward]

7. The method and kit of one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the preferred combination of primers and probes used for detection all bacteria and/or fungus-yeast consisting of the sequence :

Seq ID 1 + Seq ID 2 + Seq ID 9

or

Seq ID 3 + Seq ID 4 + Seq ID 10

25 or

Seq ID 5 + Seq ID 6 + Seq ID 11

or

Seq ID 7 + Seq ID 8 + Seq ID 12

or

Seq ID 1 + Seq ID 2 + Seq ID 9 + Seq ID 7 + Seq ID 8 + Seq ID 12

5 or

Seq ID 3 + Seq ID 4 + Seq ID 10 + Seq ID 7 + Seq ID 8 + Seq ID 12

or

Seq ID 5 + Seq ID 6 + Seq ID 11 + Seq ID 7 + Seq ID 8 + Seq ID 12

10 8. The method and kit of one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the polynucleotide primers and probes are natural nucleic acid or Peptide Nucleic Acid (PNA) which can hybridize to nucleic acid (DNA and RNA).

15 9. The method and kit of one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the RNA is quantified and compared with quantified external standard RNA from *Escherichia coli* and *Candida spp.*

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Abstract

5 This invention is related to a novel sample preparation, probes, couple primer sets for one step real time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), methods and kits for the universal detection of alive bacteria and/or fungus-yeast in pharmaceutical, cosmetic and non clinical samples.

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